

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 INT-05 SMI-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS SENV IWC PE
SUBJ: WHALE CONSERVATION MEASURES

REF: A. STATE 114431 B. LIMA 2322 C. LIMA 3582
D. STATE 99353

1. WE APPRECIATE INFORMATION REF A. SO FAR GOP HAS NOT
RAISED QUESTION OF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE WITH US.

2. RE PERU'S JOINING IWC, ENRIQUE ROMAN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
MARITIME SOVEREIGNTY OFFICE DURING CONVERSATION MAY 3
REPEATED TO ECON OFF GOP'S INTENTION TO JOIN THE ORGANI-
ZATION THIS YEAR. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION IS
NOT YET FINAL AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IF PERU MUST ADHERE
TO IWC'S ZERO QUOTA FOR SPERM AND BRYDE'S WHALES, GOP
MAY DECIDE NOT TO JOIN. HE NOTED THAT ZERO QUOTAS WOULD
PROBABLY FORCE CLOSURE OF THE KINKAI (NOW CALLED VICMAR)
WHALING PLANT, RESULTING IN LOSS OF JOBS FOR OVER 1,000
WORKERS, SOMETHING GOP WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO PERMIT.

3. ECON OFF POINTED OUT TO ROMAN THAT DECISION NOT TO JOIN
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IWC COULD HARM PERU'S IMAGE AS NATION INTERESTED IN
CONSERVATION AS WELL AS RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS THROUGH
EMBARGO OF FISH IMPORTS INTO U.S. THIS, HE NOTED, COULD
BE MORE DAMAGING TO PERUVIAN ECONOMY THAN CLOSURE OF
WHALING PLANT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE
PRUDENT FOR PERU TO JOIN IWC FIRST AND WORK FOR IMPROVED
QUOTAS FROM WITHIN ORGANIZATION.

3. ROMAN SAID HE AGREED PERSONALLY WITH THIS PROCEDURE AND GAVE IMPRESSION THAT GOP WAS THINKING ALONG SAME LINES. HE ADDED THAT GOP HAD BEEN INVITED BY DANISH GOVERNMENT TO ATTEND JULY PREPARATORY MEETING IN COPENHAGEN (REF D.) ROMAN SAID GOP PLANS TO ATTEND COPENHAGEN MEETING AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO OBTAIN WHAT IT FEELS SHOULD BE REASONABLE SPERM AND BRYDE'S WHALES QUOTAS FOR PERU.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE BELIEVE PERU SINCERELY WANTS TO JOIN IWC THIS SPRING, ROMAN'S FEARS ABOUT ECONOMIC EFFECT OF ZERO QUOTAS REFLECTS GENERAL CONCERN WITHIN GOP, AND IS EVIDENCE THAT GOP MIGHT STILL RETREAT FROM DECISION. IN ORDER FOR EMBASSY TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS URGING PERU TO JOIN IWC, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BE ABLE TO GIVE GOP BETTER IDEA OF CONCRETE WAYS USG CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE. THUS WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS NOTED PARA 5 REF A.

DECON: 5/8/79. PREEG

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